

Statement of Financial Impact on Proposed Suffolk County Legislation

IR Number: 1569

IR Year: 2011

Introduced By: Edward Romaine

Title of Proposed Resolution:

Authorizing planning steps for the acquisition of Farmland Development Rights under the Suffolk County Drinking Water Protection Program, as amended by Local Law No. 24-2007 - Riverhead Central School District property – Town of Riverhead (SCTM No. 0600-046.00-03.00-005.000).

Purpose and Intent of Proposed Legislation:

This resolution authorizes planning steps for the acquisition of farmland development rights on 27± acres, in the Town of Riverhead, under the Suffolk County Drinking Water Protection Program (DWPP), as amended by Local Law No. 24-2007.

The property is currently owned by the Riverhead Central School District. A 6/9/11 letter from the District's Superintendent of Schools indicates that this is the last large parcel on Tuthills Lane for which the County or Town has not purchased development rights. The letter suggests that the County should "finalize" any interest in purchasing the development rights to the property prior to it being placed on the open market. The District has authorized an appraisal of the property.

Detailed Explanation of Fiscal Impact:

Planning steps involve an opportunity cost for work done in-house and costs for contracted services which may include appraisals, environmental site assessments, surveys, and title work. Cost of contracted work can vary considerably depending on the size and scope of the proposed acquisition and is generally paid out of the applicable land acquisition program balance. This DWPP is sales tax funded, and will not impact the General Fund. The actual acquisition of the property would be subject to approval of another duly enacted resolution.

If applicable, what is the comparison cost if this is undertaken in-house, compared to an outside contractor or vendor?

Not Applicable. Chapter 712 of the Suffolk County Charter requires at least one independent appraisal and at least two independent appraisals for acquisitions over \$300,000. There is then an internal review process. If an offer is made and accepted, the Division of Real Estate is required to obtain a survey report and an environmental assessment report from outside contractors included on lists of pre-approved contractors. The Law Department is responsible for finalizing the contract and obtaining a title report and title insurance.

Total Financial Cost and timing over five years on each affected political or other subdivision:

Not applicable.

Proposed Source of Funding:

Planning steps costs are included under the land acquisition component of the

Suffolk County Drinking Water Protection Program, as amended by Local Law No. 24-2007, which is funded by a dedicated portion of sales tax.

Total Estimated Financial Impact on all Funds, tax rates, and property tax:

This DWPP funding is contained in Fund 477. Adoption of this resolution will not affect tax rates or property tax.

Total Estimated Financial Impact on Suffolk County's economy including the impact on goods or services, economic development, small business activity, employment opportunities and overall business activity:

Not applicable.

Authorized Signature

Date Completed
7/12/11

Analyst Code
LH

***Gail Vizzini, Director
Budget Review Office***